

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

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R 162346Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: BBAK:SY

SUBJ: J. GERALD MCELROY T/A PENNSYLVANIA MINING COMPANY

REF: DAMASCUS 0118, 1688

1. FIRST REFTEL ANSWERED BY STATE 012103 AND STATE 014572.

INITIAL AND RENEWED CREDIT AGENCY INVESTIGATIONS DISCLOSE NO NEW INFORMATION OTHER THAN THAT AS OF MAY 2, PMC STILL USING TEMPORARY ADDRESS OF MCGAVIN'S LAW FIRM IN READING. PHILA. D.O. REPORTS NO FINANCIAL DATA REGARDING FIRM OR MCELROY SUBMITTED BY EITHER, OR ATTORNEY, TO READING OR PHILADELPHIA BANKS AND THAT FURTHER BONA FIDES CHECKS THROUGH THOSE OR OTHER USUAL SOURCES OF COMMERCIAL INFORMATION ARE INAPPROPRIATE WITHOUT MORE JUSTIFICATION THAN SYRIAN IMPORTER'S REQUEST.

2. COMMERCE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO FOLLOW UP MARCH 11/13 EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN MCELROY AND WRIGHT SINCE COPIES TRANSMITTED TO BIC AND EXPORT CONTROL ARE UNREADABLE.

3. COPIES OF ALL RELEVANT MATERIAL IN USDOC FILE WAS FURNISHED TO USDA/FAS BEFORE WALLACE MEETING LAST WEEK WITH MCELROY AND MCGAVIN WITH RESULTS AS REPORTED IN STATE 108902. SINCE SUBJECT AGAIN FAILED TO DISCLOSE FINANCIAL INFORMATION REQUIRED TO TITLE I REGULATIONS AND ALSO
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TALKED OF APPEAL AGAINST USDA DECISION, COMMERCE FEELS

FURTHER INVESTIGATION SHOULD NOT BE UNDERTAKEN UNLESS

MCELROY MAKES NEW EFFORT TO SOLICIT SARG CONTRACTUAL ENGAGEMENTS.

4. IN RESPONSE TO DAMASCUS 1688 AND 1710, BIC GAVE A PRELIMINARY REPORT AND APPRAISAL OF COMYNS BROTHERS IN USDOC 7248. THE LIMITED INFORMATION USDOC CAN OFFER ON OTHER MCELROY CONNECTIONS IDENTIFIED IN PARA FIVE OF POST'S 1688 IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. NO KNOWLEDGE IN COMMERCE OF VIMASON OIL CO. SUGGEST EMBASSY LONDON BE REQUESTED TO INVESTIGATE IF PETROLEUM PRODUCT SALE PROSPECTS LIKELY.

B. WATERS, BROWN AND OMNIGROUP HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN IDENTIFIED AS RICE EXPORTERS AND FIRM NOT OTHERWISE INVOLVED IN FOREIGN TRANSACTIONS OF WHICH BIC HAS RECORDS, INCLUDING BUSINESS SERVICE REQUESTS. SAME COMMENT APPLIES TO FLORIAN AND E AND G INDUSTRIES.

C. NO INFORMATION ON GARCIA OR BUS COMPANY IN ARUBA. IF SUBSTANTIAL SYRIAN SUGAR PURCHASE IS POSSIBILITY, COMMERCE WILL CONTACT MONTERO OF BANKERS TRUST INTERNATIONAL.

D. GENERAL ENGINES CO. MANUFACTURES TRUCK TRAILERS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT. HAS \$9 MILLION SALES AND 250 EMPLOYEES ACCORDING CREDIT REPORT. DOES POST WISH F/U ON NATURE OF CONTRACT ON WHICH BOND ISSUED?

E. LATTER QUERY ALSO APPLIES TO BOND COVERING LOW-BOY TRACTORS. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE WORD AS TO STATUS OF PMC'S FEBRUARY CONTRACTS FOR EQUIPMENT SALES TO INFO MINCOM AND PHOSPHATES CO. MENTIONED PARA. 4 DAMASCUS 1688. KISSINGER

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